

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 523
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION directing the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to study local government drug funds and to make recommendations on appropriate uses of, accounting for and appropriations of local drug fund monies.

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-402(a), provides that funds received by counties and municipalities from drug enforcement efforts must be used exclusively in the local drug enforcement program or the local drug education program; and

WHEREAS, some county and municipal law enforcement departments have amassed large sums of money in the local drug fund, which monies can be used only for the purposes specified above; and

WHEREAS, monies in local drug funds often sit idle while other important local government programs are underfunded; and

WHEREAS, county sheriffs and municipal chiefs of police generally want drug fund monies to be dedicated exclusively to drug enforcement and drug education programs; and

WHEREAS, local mayors, county executives and members of county and municipal governing bodies generally favor allowing the local governing body to appropriate these funds for priorities in addition to drug enforcement and drug education; and

WHEREAS, this controversy between law enforcement and local governments appears unlikely to abate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) is directed to study all aspects of local government drug funds and make recommendations on appropriate uses of, accounting for and appropriations of local drug fund monies. TACIR may propose appropriate statutory changes to implement its recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That TACIR shall report its findings and recommendations to the One Hundredth General Assembly by March 1, 1997.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

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